

orchestra level of the theatre. In their pursuit to end racial discrimination, the Smiths endured numerous death threats, many arrests by the police, and the tragic murders of their friends Dr. Martin Luther King and Medgar Evers.

In 1973, Dr. Smith became the first African-American elected to an at-large position on the Shelby County Commission where he served until 1994. Dr. Smith was a compassionate and effective County Commissioner. He and I served together as Commissioners from 1978 to 1980. During this time on the Commission, we worked together to build the Regional Medical Center, our charity hospital and trauma center in Shelby County that serves people who would otherwise have no access to health care. He and fellow County Commissioner Jesse Turner, Sr., who also served as National Treasurer for the NAACP, were known as "the freedom fighters." They fought for civil rights in Memphis and stood up when others did not. They were always the voices of conscience, reasonableness, and morality in our community.

Vasco Smith was a loving husband to Maxine Smith. As Wendi Thomas of the Commercial Appeal noted, it is difficult to think of either Smith without the other because they were a team; indeed, together they were a force for change and progress. Maxine Smith served as the Executive Secretary of the Memphis branch of the NAACP for more than forty years and continues to serve on the NAACP National Board of Directors. For two decades, Maxine Smith served on the Memphis City School Board. She served on the Tennessee Board of Regents for over a decade. Married 56 years, Maxine and Vasco Smith were true soulmates. Together, they had one son, Dr. Vasco "Smitty" Smith, III, a dentist like his father, who made his parents very proud.

Dr. Vasco Smith was a special man to me because he showed moral rectitude of a type that's rarely seen. He knew justice beyond color and will be remembered in Memphis as a great civil rights leader, a husband, a father, a professional, and a great Memphian.

He will be buried Friday. I will be there with him. His was a life well lived.

HONORING THE SECOND HONOR FLIGHT OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

HON. HARRY TEAGUE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of the World War II veterans from my district who are traveling to Washington, D.C. today on the Second Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico.

The Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico was established by business and community leaders in my district who are devoted to honoring our veterans. The aim of the program is to provide as many World War II veterans as possible with the opportunity to see the World War II Memorial here in Washington, D.C. at no cost to them. Last October, Southern New Mexico had its First Honor Flight, which was a great success. Southern New Mexico's Second Honor Flight departed from El Paso International Airport this morning carrying World

War II veterans from my district who have never had an opportunity to see the World War II Memorial that was built in their honor. These veterans, who risked their lives to defend the freedoms we enjoy today, will land at Reagan National Airport where they will be greeted with a grand salute. From there, they will have an opportunity to visit the World War II Memorial for the very first time. At the memorial, there will be a wreath laying ceremony in honor of veterans who have passed away, a memory session for the veterans to share their World War II stories, and a group photo so that they can remember this day for the rest of their lives. They will return home this evening.

These veterans fought nobly for our freedoms and we cannot even begin to repay them for their sacrifices. The least we can do is try to show them the depth of our gratitude by providing them with this once in a lifetime opportunity to visit their memorial. I am proud that every dollar that is paying for this honor flight came from private citizens who recognize the immense sacrifice these veterans made to ensure their liberty. This flight would not be possible without the dedication of Judge Robert Brack and Judge Leslie Smith of Las Cruces, who initially spearheaded the idea of bringing the Honor Flight program to Southern New Mexico. In addition, the Honor Flight Board of Directors comprised of Chairman Bill Mattiace, Vice-Chairman Darrell Wall, Treasurer Gary Lenzo, and Secretary Patsy A. Duran contributed much time and energy to advocating for this cause, and to recruiting board members. Board Members Steven Alexander, Walt Baker, Pat Carr, Jag Cheema, Denton Holmes, Dolores Connor, J.R. Turner, Susie Cordero, Carrie Contreras, Debbie Hanssen, and Dolores Archuleta have also made invaluable contributions through their tireless efforts to expand the Honor Flight program and seek out donors. The generosity these private citizens have shown is an example of the bigheartedness that is a true part of the American spirit, and I am touched by their willingness to provide such a rare and meaningful opportunity to their friends, neighbors, and even perfect strangers.

From the Western Front to the Eastern Front, from the Pacific and Asian Theatre to the African Theatre, Americans from our "greatest generation" risked life and limb to halt the rise of fascism. We owe them more thanks than we can ever express. I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, I was not present in Washington, DC to cast the following votes, because I was attending a ceremony to commemorate the first operating day of Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst in New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District. Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst is the first tri-service base in the country, and today was significant for my district and the United States military. If I were present, I would have voted the following way.

1) Republican Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2892—Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010—I would have voted yes.

2) H. Res. 517—Congratulating the University of Washington women's softball team for winning the 2009 Women's College World Series—I would have voted yes.

3) H. Res. 487—Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the State News at Michigan State University—I would have voted yes.

4) H. Res. 788—Rule providing for consideration of the Conference Report on H.R. 3183—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010—I would have voted yes.

5) H. Res. 692—Supporting the goals and ideals of Tay-Sachs Awareness Month—I would have voted yes.

6) H. Con. Res. 151—Expressing the sense of Congress that China release democratic activist Liu Xiaobo from imprisonment—I would have voted yes.

7) Final Passage of the Conference Report on H.R. 3183—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010—I would have voted yes.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding project funding I received as part of H.R. 3293, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

Rep. WALTER B. JONES

Project: Metabolic Institute

Recipient: East Carolina University

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)—Health Facilities and Services

Amount: \$222,000

Explanation: The funding will allow the Metabolic Institute at East Carolina University to develop a clinical research center and laboratory to advance the Metabolic Institute's study of new technology and medical treatments for obesity and diabetes. Diabetes is an epidemic: diabetes is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S., afflicts more than 7 percent of the population, and cost our economy about \$174 billion in 2007 alone, according to the American Diabetes Association. The Metabolic Institute will continue to build on East Carolina University's pioneer metabolic advancements, including the Greenville Gastric Bypass, to explore the question of why diabetes disappears in four out of five patients with the disease after they undergo gastric bypass surgery.

HONORING WOODY WATSON

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, my grandmother taught for 40 years and my sister Beverly, taught for over 30 years in the public